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BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



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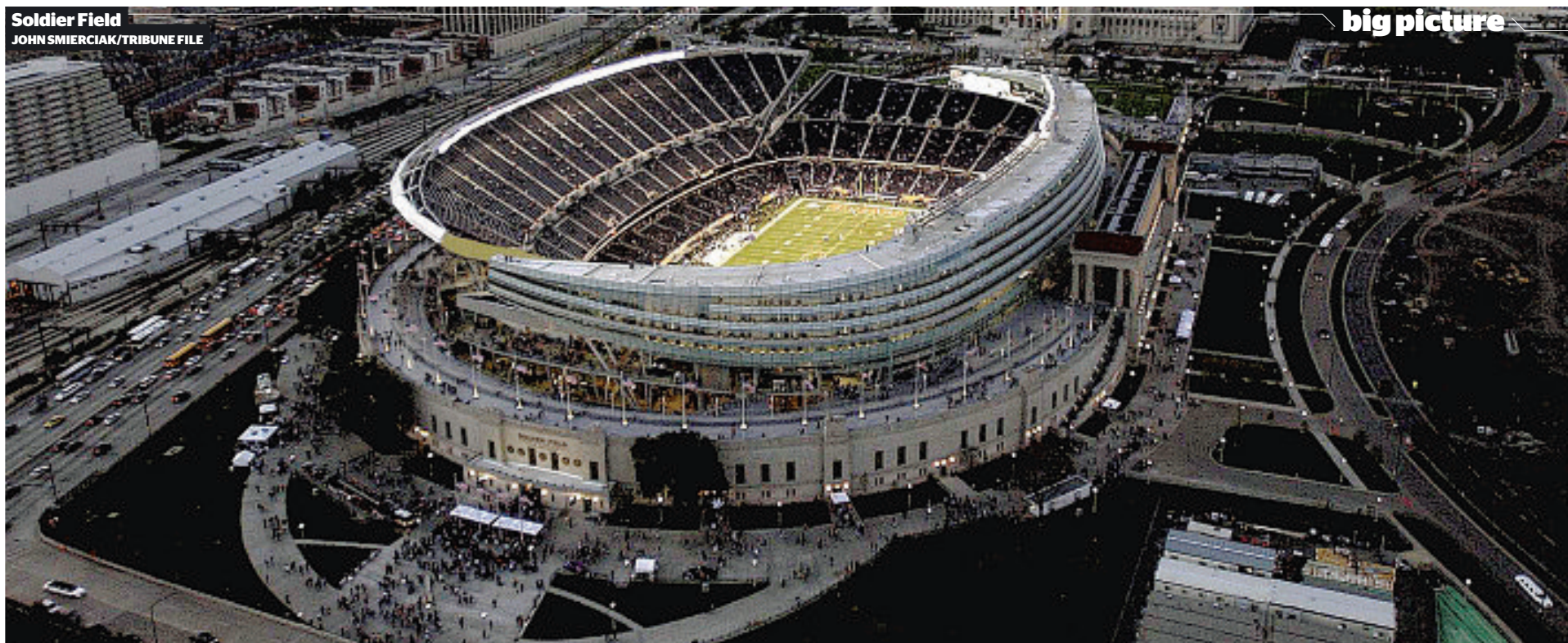
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NO. 18? FAN-TASTIC.

CHICAGO RANKED AS 18TH BEST CITY FOR FOOTBALL FANS. WE'RE EVEN MORE CHEESED GREEN BAY TOOK THE TOP SPOT.

By **Leonor Vivanco** | REDEYE
Ditka. Sweetness. The Fridge.

Chicago knows a thing, two or three about football.

But when WalletHub came out with its list this week of Best and Worst Cities for Football Fans, we were surprised we didn't break the Top 10 and even more cheesed to find our nemesis Green Bay took first place. Chicago ranked No. 18.

WalletHub, a personal finance website, looked at 245 large U.S. cities with at least one college or pro football team. Since Chicago doesn't have a major college football team, all the attention was on Da Bears.

The rankings are based on two categories: teams and performance

on one hand and costs and fan engagement on the other.

The teams and performance category considered the franchise value, the number of teams in the city and how they performed over the past three seasons. Well, the Bears were valued by Forbes at \$2.45 billion, but they haven't made the playoffs since the 2010 season. So, that definitely didn't help. Obviously, we're not the best, but we're not the worst either.

But they counted the number of NFL division and league championship wins—that means the Super Bowl victory against the New England Patriots in 1986 counts!

On to the costs and fan engagement category, Chicago was graded

on attendance, the average ticket price for a NFL game and the number of sports bars per 100,000 residents. ESPN reported in 2014 that Chicago was among the priciest tickets to get at \$108.44 per average ticket.

On the flip side, Chicago has been home to some of the best bars in the country, and GQ even referred to it in 2014 as the best drinking city in America. Somehow, despite sports bars getting packed during the football season, the Windy City didn't score as high in this category thanks to Yelp.

Chicago was also picked as home of the least accessible stadium with the exception of New York, deter-

mined by stadium capacity divided by city population. Not too surprising considering Soldier Field with 61,500 seats has the second-smallest seating capacity in the NFL.

Also factored in is friendliness and engagement, which means the number of Twitter followers plus the number of Facebook likes per capita. Chicago ranked among the least friendly and engaged NFL fans.

Aside from social media, where are the points for tailgating and toughness? Bears fans will weather the rain, sleet and snow and below-freezing temps to root for their team. That has to count for something, right?

@LVIVANCO | LVIVANCO@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

Best Cities for Football Fans:

- 1 Green Bay, Wis.
- 2 Clemson, S.C.
- 3 Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 4 Tuscaloosa, Ala.
- 5 East Lansing, Mich.
- 6 Denver, Colo.
- 7 Princeton, N.J.
- 8 New York, N.Y.
- 9 Philadelphia, Pa.
- 10 Baton Rouge, La.

Best Cities in IL for Football Fans:

- 18 Chicago
- 23 DeKalb, Ill. (home of Northern Illinois University)
- 88 Charleston, Ill. (home of Eastern Illinois University)
- 95 Champaign, Ill. (home of the University of Illinois)
- 121 Normal, Ill. (home of Illinois State University)
- 149 Evanston, Ill. (home of Northwestern University)
- 154 Carbondale, Ill. (home of Southern Illinois University)
- 169 Macomb, Ill. (home of Western Illinois University)

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Cheating? Ask yourself what you really want.



Anna Pulley

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Dear Anna: I'm married, but for the last three years, I have been hooking up with this guy for sex. I told him from the start that I just want sex with no strings attached, but did not tell him I'm married. The thing is, each time we're together he asks about my personal life: where I live, if he can come over or pick me up, whether I want

to grab sushi when he doesn't like sushi, and wanting me to bring my friends and hang out with his friends, etc. I don't tell him about myself nor where I live because I don't want him to get involved in my personal life. I want to know if he has feelings for me or if I'm just a fling to him. I'm afraid to ask him 'cuz what if he wants to go out with me? I am so confused because deep down I hope that he likes me as more than a fling. —C.D.

Dear C.D.: You've been hooking up for three years. I think it's safe to say he likes you. But I also think the better question is, why do you care if he thinks of you as a fling or something more? From a purely practical point of view, it's pretty darn challenging to fall for someone who, like, won't tell you anything about themselves, or where they live—barring the occasional sushi restaurant recommendation. Not to mention someone who is married to somebody else and lying about it.

Are you wondering because you're unhappy in your marriage and want to start over with this new guy? Or are you simply seeking validation from someone who is not your spouse, someone to make you feel desired and special? I'm guessing it's the latter, but it's hard to tell because you don't say anything about your marriage. I will refrain from giving you a lecture on honesty, but I will say that any relationship worth having is based on trust, which is something that's missing from both of yours. You can't have it both ways—you can either be mysterious and sneak around, or you can own up to your decisions and see where authenticity and integrity might take you.

Dear Anna: I've been married for 18 years, but I can't seem to be faithful. When we were dating in the beginning, he cheated first, and it's never been the same since. I married him for all the wrong reasons. We have four kids together, and I'm not staying because of the kids. (They're big now.) It just seems like I really don't know what I want. Do you feel like there is some help I need? —Married With Children

Dear MWC: Yes, probably the number of a good divorce lawyer. You're not happy, sugar shoes, and it sounds like you haven't been in a long time. I won't tell you whether you should leave your husband or not, but if you're not staying with him for the kids, then I want you to really ask yourself why you ARE staying and have stayed for 18 years. That's a small lifetime, after all.

If you're having trouble figuring out what you want (and I do not at all blame you, that's an enormous life decision), talking to a therapist would probably be immensely helpful. An impartial third party can help you piece things together, or take them apart, depending on how that shakes out.

I will say that extramarital affairs are often about unhappiness, as opposed to overwhelming desire. In John Gottman's book "The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work," he writes that most marital therapists find "these trysts are usually not about sex, but seeking friendship, support, understanding ... the kinds of things a marriage is supposed to offer."

If you and your husband are looking to re-establish a connection with each other, Gottman's book is a good place to start. It has many helpful starting points to rebuild trust and closeness, and it myth-busts a lot of outdated marriage advice.

I wish you the best, MWC, and hope that in your search, you can, as Ursula K. Le Guin once put it, "glimpse what no mirror can reflect, the spirit flashing out across the years, beautiful."

ANNA PULLEY IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. WANT TO ASK ANNA AN ANONYMOUS QUESTION ABOUT LOVE, SEX OR DATING? EMAIL YOUR QUANDARY TO REDEYEDATING@GMAIL.COM.



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news

U. of C. prof quits amid sex misconduct controversy

By Dawn Rhodes | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A University of Chicago professor recently quit his job as school officials were preparing to fire him for violating school policy regarding sexual misconduct, according to a university statement.



Jason Lieb

Jason Lieb, a professor in the Department of Human Genetics, submitted his resignation in January, less than two years after he was hired.

In response to questions about Lieb's employment, a U. of C. spokesman released the statement confirming that a faculty member was accused of engaging in "inappropriate behavior" during an off-campus party in November and was promptly investigated by the school's Title IX coordinator, Sarah Wake. The statement said the school determined that his actions were in violation of the university's policy on "harassment, discrimination and sexual misconduct," and he resigned.

Another U. of C. professor in Lieb's department, Yoav Gilad, said he was told by students who attended an annual faculty/student retreat in northwestern Illinois that the inappropriate conduct allegedly occurred there.

In a letter the Tribune obtained regarding the investigation, Wake, an assistant provost, responded to an individual complaint about Lieb inappropriately touching people and pressuring people to drink at the party, but also al-

luded to a wider scope of problematic conduct.

"In light of the severity and pervasiveness of Professor Lieb's overall conduct, and the broad, negative impact the conduct has had on the educational and work environment of students, faculty and staff, I recommended that the University terminate Professor Lieb's academic appointment," Wake wrote in the emailed letter, dated Jan. 22.

Students and faculty from five graduate programs participate in the Molecular Biosciences Retreat to present and discuss their research, according to the school's website. The 2015 retreat took place at the Eagle Ridge Inn in northwestern Illinois near the Wisconsin border.

Students complained about his behavior after the event, Gilad said, and Lieb went on leave immediately after the university launched its

investigation. Administrators agreed that Lieb should be fired, according to Wake's letter, and he resigned Jan. 21, before disciplinary procedures were complete.

Lieb's biography page no longer appears on the university website. Phone messages left for him were not returned.

This is not the first time Lieb has faced accusations of inappropriate behavior. U. of C. officials, in their statement, said the professor had told the

university about being investigated at another institution for a "prior allegation involving unwanted contact." U. of C. officials contacted the institution and learned that the allegation had been deemed unfounded. The professor was required to "undergo training" before starting at the South Side campus, the statement said.

In light of the severity and pervasiveness of Professor Lieb's overall conduct, and the broad, negative impact the conduct has had ... I recommended that the University terminate Professor Lieb's academic appointment."

—Sarah Wake, U. of C. Title IX coordinator, in a letter regarding the investigation

5 adults, 1 child found dead in Gage Park home

Five adults and a child were found dead inside a Gage Park home Thursday afternoon, all of them apparently stabbed, police said.

Officers discovered the bodies around 1:05 p.m. after being called to the home in the 5700 block of South California Avenue for a well-being check, said a Chicago police spokeswoman.

A relative identified the dead as a family who lived in the home. Police said the victims were four men, one woman and a child 11 or 12 years old. A co-worker of the woman called police after he did not see her for several days, a source said.

"We are in shock," the relative said. —CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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sports

Super Bowl 50
5:30 p.m. Sunday,
CBS



GETTY IMAGES AND AP PHOTOS

SAN FRANCISCO BLING

BEARS ARE LONG GONE, SO THESE PLAYERS WILL HAVE TO REPRESENT CHICAGO

By Paul M. Banks | FOR REDEYE

Despite the Bears being far from contention, this year's Super Bowl still has Chicago appeal as six players with ties to the city (some stronger than others, we admit) will be on the field. RedEye estimated their odds of winning the Super Bowl 50 MVP award. @PAULMBANKS

OWEN DANIELS

Denver tight end

You know him because: He's a Naperville native who attended Naperville Central High School.

How important is he to the Broncos? Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning said at the beginning of the season that Daniels taught

him the offense.

"His ability and speed have really caught me by surprise this year," said Phil Simms, who will call the game for CBS with Jim Nantz.

MVP odds: 55-1. Daniels is our Ambien candidate, aka our sleeper.

GREG OLSEN

Carolina tight end

You know him because: He played for the Bears from 2007-13.

When the Panthers lost Kelvin Benjamin at the beginning of the year, everyone wondered who Cam Newton's go-to guy would be. Olsen led the team in receptions and receiving yards. It's similar to 2009, when Olsen led the Bears in receptions and touchdown catches.

Olsen has shown a penchant for creating mismatches this season, just like he showed a penchant for busting X-rated rhymes in college.

"No one seems to have an answer for how

to slow this guy down," CBS analyst Rich Gannon said.

MVP odds: 15-1

MICHAEL SCHOFIELD,

Broncos offensive lineman

You know him because: He's an Orland Park native who attended Sandburg High School.

An offensive tackle winning MVP? You're more likely to see people Tweeting praise for the decision to make Coldplay the halftime show. At least we have Queen Bey to salvage it.

MVP odds: 5000-1

3 REASONS...

... TO ROOT AGAINST **CAROLINA** IN THE SUPER BOWL



Chris Sosa

» chrisosa@redyeachicago.com
» @redeyesportschi

The purpose of this column, as the headline states, is to give football fans three reasons the Carolina Panthers are less than deserving of your support in the Super Bowl. (Because anyone can give you reasons to like a team.)

Before we start, let's get one thing

straight: This list will not include anti-dab rhetoric. You don't want to see Cam Newton dance? Stop him from scoring.

Now, down to the business of why the Panthers are annoying.

Cam Newton's a sign stealer

Earlier this season, the Panthers quarterback ripped down a sign belonging to a Green Bay fan at Carolina's Bank of America Stadium. (The Panthers eventually beat the Packers to go to 8-0.) Newton told reporters afterward, "I feel it's my due diligence to protect this house." That's fine, but the measures he took were rude and unnecessary.

While the stadium's policy states, "No banners or flags expressing support of visiting teams may be affixed to or displayed on

any surface," Newton should have notified a team employee and asked that person to deal with it.

Their fans misbehave, too

Carolina fans cheered when Cleveland quarterback Johnny Manziel injured his hamstring in a 2014 game. This should go without saying, but there's no place for that.

Same goes for when St. Louis defensive lineman Chris Long (brother of Bears offensive lineman Kyle Long) was showered with trash after being ejected from a Rams-Panthers game in 2013. Can't booing be enough?

They gave us Ked Woodley

Just because you have a smartphone and an Internet connection does not make you America's next rap star. Unfortunately, someone forgot to tell Ked Woodley: ICYMI, he's the guy who took a drum track and "dropped rhymes" to hype the Panthers.

Give him an A for the growl, D-minus for everything else.

If the Panthers win the Super Bowl, it might encourage him to do an entire album. Please, Broncos, do us a favor and shut this down. Much like former Bears tight end Greg Olsen's ill-fated attempts at rap when he was at Miami, this can't be deleted from our mental hard drives swiftly enough.

... TO ROOT AGAINST **DENVER** IN THE SUPER BOWL



Annie Cercone

» acercone@redyeachicago.com
» @acc_cercone

Ah, the Super Bowl. Time to eat snacks until you're more full than a Wrigleyville bar on a Saturday night and actually enjoy having your mind poisoned by advertisers.

If you're still figuring out whom to root for because the Bears are out

of the picture, I offer an opinion: NOT the Broncos. Full disclosure: I am a Steelers fan. Not that I'm biased. Except that I totally am.

1. Peyton Manning is annoying

His head is too big for his helmet, and he screams "OMAHA!" too much. And I'm over his comeback story. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but he's old, and this season's stats are a reflection of that. According to FiveThirtyEight.com, he's one of the worst passers to make it to the big game. Does that sound like someone who deserves a Super Bowl ring?

2. The Panthers feature former Bears

If the Bears aren't going to get to make it

to the big game, you might as well root for former Bears. Coach Ron Rivera played for the beloved 1985 team, and don't forget that Charles Tillman, Jared Allen and Greg Olsen once proudly wore the orange and blue.

3. Cam Newton's dab is awesome

More losing-related things that happen for the Broncos mean more winning-related things that happen for the Panthers, and the more chances we will get to see Newton celebrate. It's a win for everyone watching.

Bonus: Denver has already won 2 Bowls

Why not spread the wealth? Carolina went to one Super Bowl, in 2004, but lost to everyone's favorite villains, the Patriots. Give the boys their rings! (I know what you're thinking: The Steelers have won six Super Bowls, and if they were in it, I'd still root for them. You're correct. Rules and logic do not apply to my love for Pittsburgh.)

Bonus, Part II: Currently it's colder in Denver than it is in Chicago, but it's much warmer in the Carolinas. Where would you rather go to escape the (not-so-bad) winter?

TREVOR SIEMIAN

Denver quarterback

You know him because: He played for Northwestern from 2011-14.

A third-string QB winning individual hardware is not exactly a safe bet. If you want a safe bet, take the over on how many times Nantz mentions that this Super Bowl is the 30th edition during the broadcast.

MVP odds: 750-1

KAWANN SHORT

Carolina defensive lineman

You know him because: He's



a native of East Chicago, Ind.

Of the million Super Bowl story angles Nantz mentioned recently, about 600,000 pertain to Cam Newton and approximately 399,950 more cover Peyton Manning. Meaning elite players such as Short, who played at Purdue, get overlooked.

"Kawann flies under the radar because he does a lot of

work away from the football in the trenches," said Travis Miller, who runs Hammer and Rails, SB Nation's Purdue community. "He's a freak athlete that can somehow elevate 315 pounds enough to dunk a basketball. He was a high school basketball teammate of Bulls guard E'Twaun Moore."

If the 17-1 Panthers played in a bigger market, people would put them in the greatest teams of all time discussion. Likewise if Short played a skill position, he'd be a Super Bowl headliner.

"Kawann Short kind of embodies what the Carolina Panthers are about," Simms said.

MVP odds: 75-1. The Bears' Richard Dent was the Super Bowl XX MVP, so there's precedent for a defensive lineman.

JARED ALLEN

Carolina defensive end

You know him because: He played for the Bears in 2014 and '15.

If he gets a couple of strip-scoop-scores Sunday, he'll 1) be an MVP candidate and 2) Fulfill the broadcast's quota for alliteration with the letter "S." Allen's got more sacks than your local grocery store over the course of his career, but this is his first Super Bowl.

If Kawann Short and Star Lotulelei consistently draw double-teams from the Broncos offensive line, it'll free Allen up to really make some noise.

MVP odds: 275-1

SUPER BOWL 50 BY THE NUMBERS

Can you believe this is already the 50th Super Bowl? It seems like only yesterday we were celebrating the Bears... OK, we'll stop right there. No need to reopen that wound. Instead, here's how this year's big game to end all big games breaks down by the numbers. —REDEYE

\$4.6M - \$5M

Cost of a 30-second ad during Super Bowl 50, according to Ad Age.

Frank Gifford broadcasts for CBS prior to Super Bowl I in 1967.



4 Number of hours the CBS' pregame show for Super Bowl 50 will run; the first Super Bowl's pregame show lasted 30 minutes.

70 Cameras CBS will use in its broadcast of Super Bowl 50; only 11 were used in Super Bowl I.



Jumbo chicken wings at Dinosaur Bar-B-Que
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

1.3B

Chicken wings that will be consumed Super Bowl weekend, according to the National Chicken Council.

\$2,750 The cheapest ticket available on Stub Hub for Super Bowl 50 as of Thursday evening. That seat is in the upper end zone of Levi's Stadium.

RAISE ONE TO RIGHT NOW



Amy Schumer and Seth Rogen in the Bud Light ad for Super Bowl 50

5 Super Bowl 50 spots purchased by Anheuser-Busch InBev, the most by any one company. Two will be for Budweiser and one each for Bud Light, Michelob Ultra and Shock Top, according to Ad Age.



5,500 Number of credentialed media members for Super Bowl 50.

\$4.2B

Amount expected to be wagered by Americans on Super Bowl 50, according to the American Gaming Association. The organization estimates only \$100 million of that will be wagered legally in Nevada.

\$623,142.25

Amount one person placed on the Carolina Panthers to win Super Bowl 50 on the William Hill betting site.

\$327,969.60

Amount that person profits if Carolina beats Denver on Sunday.



4 Players in Super Bowl 50 who have championship rings: Denver's **Peyton Manning** (Indianapolis), Carolina's Michael Oher (Baltimore), Ed Dickson (Baltimore) and Roman Harper (New Orleans).



1 **John Elway** is the only quarterback to win the Super Bowl and retire immediately afterward; he did it right after the Broncos beat Atlanta in 1999. Will Peyton Manning be the next?



1 Times **Jared Allen** has sacked Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning: Allen has 136 sacks in his career.

20 Former Bears and current Carolina Panther defensive lineman Jared Allen attended Los Gatos High School in California, which is less than 20 miles from Levi's Stadium, the site of Super Bowl 50.



\$850

Cost of the gold and zebra print Versace pants **Cam Newton** wore on the Panthers' flight to the Bay Area for Super Bowl 50.

11% The average cost of a Super Bowl ad has increased by 11 percent each year during the past five years, according to Ad Age.



Kermit the Frog in a 2014 Super Bowl commercial.



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HEART OR LUNG DAMAGE • DEATH**

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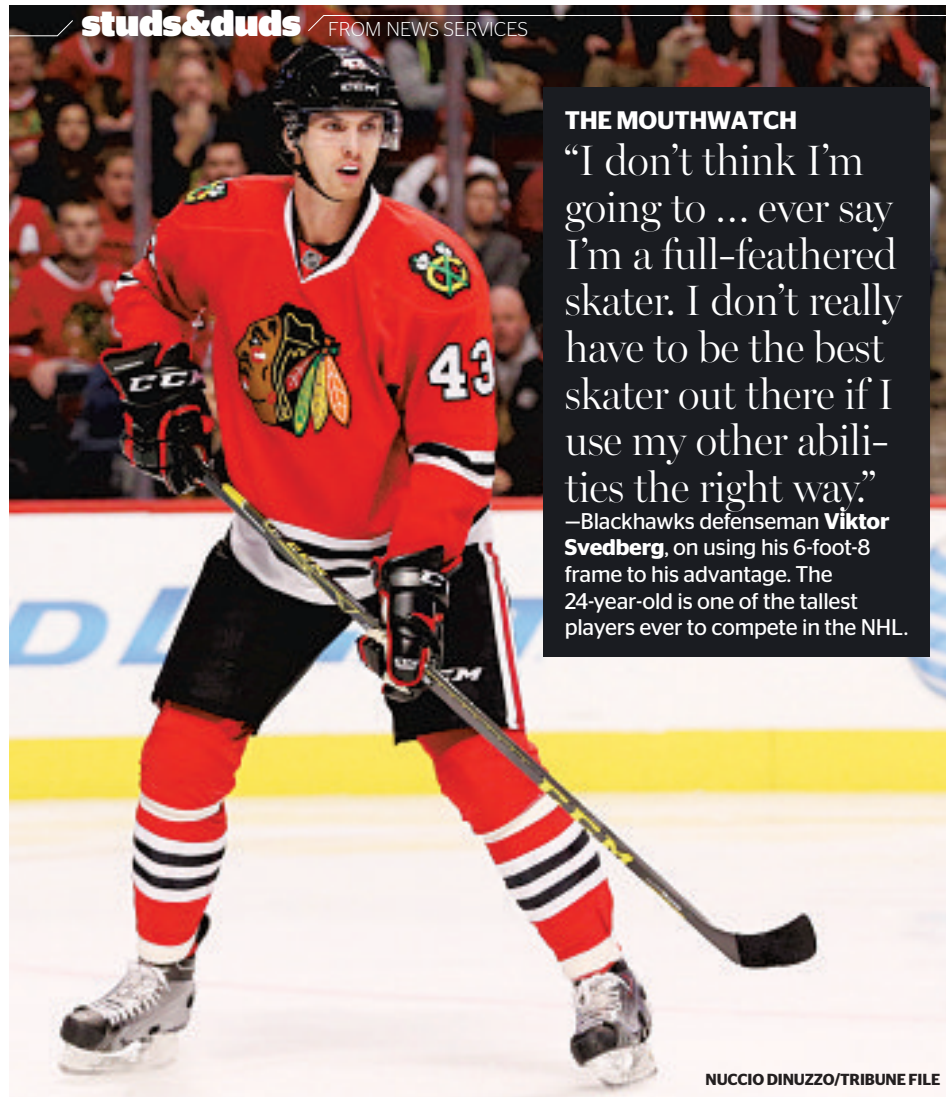
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THE MOUTHWATCH

"I don't think I'm going to ... ever say I'm a full-feathered skater. I don't really have to be the best skater out there if I use my other abilities the right way."

—Blackhawks defenseman **Viktor Svedberg**, on using his 6-foot-8 frame to his advantage. The 24-year-old is one of the tallest players ever to compete in the NHL.

THE MOUTHWATCH, PART II

"Brannen Greene, we've put up with him doing some stuff in the past, but that was probably the biggest dick move I've ever had a player do during a game."

—**Kansas coach Bill Self**, on the Jayhawks guard, who dunked in the waning seconds of a lopsided win over Kansas State on Wednesday.

Long in no hurry for new deal

Offensive lineman Kyle Long is not about to pressure the Bears for a new deal despite being eligible. "There is no rush," the three-time Pro Bowler said. "It's hard to have these discussions when you are so focused on what's next, what's next, what's next. And for me what's next is getting ready to play next year."

STOP. WATCH.

This weekend's must-see events in sports. Besides the Super Bowl. Duh.

Blackhawks at Dallas | 7 p.m. Saturday, WGN

The last time the Hawks faced Patrick Sharp, Johnny Oduya and the Stars, Dallas cruised to a 4-0 win.

ALSO ON TAP

Friday

» Bulls at Denver, 8 p.m. CSN » Wolves at Iowa, 7 p.m. WCIU2

Saturday

» Basketball: DePaul at Creighton, 1 p.m. WCIU2 » Basketball: UIC vs. Valparaiso, 3 p.m. CSN
» Basketball: Loyola at Southern Illinois, 7 p.m. ESPN3 » Bulls at Minnesota, 7 p.m. CSN
» Wolves vs. Iowa, 7 p.m. WCIU2

Sunday

» Basketball: Illinois vs. Iowa, noon BTN

SUPER BEARS

What better way to celebrate the NFL's biggest weekend of the year than with four former Bears players and one, er, actual bear?



Anthony Adams
@spiceadams
YouTube star



Jerry Azumah
@JerryAzumah
Fantasy football champ



Israel Idonije
@Idonije
Comic book creator



Patrick Mannelly
@PatrickMannelly
Long snapping master



Bear Jordan
@redeye_sportsch
Chicago Bears- and Bulls-loving beast

1	Complete this sentence: Before the Super Bowl is over, Peyton Manning will reluctantly dab with Cam Newton and congratulate the Panthers on winning.	... sign a contract to never say the word "Omaha" again!	... be the oldest player to start in a Super Bowl and be sacked 100 times.	... make another commercial.	... drive his wheelchair into the sunset.
2	Which Bears player could most benefit from dance lessons taught by Cam Newton?	Hunter Hillenmeyer.	Even though Staley isn't a player, he could still use the lessons.	I don't know if it would be much of a benefit or just for the sake of how hilarious it would be.	Robbie Gould, because the Bears need a dancing kicker.	Can we have Anthony Adams teach instead? They don't call him "Spice" for nothin'.
3	What will John Fox be thinking when Super Bowl 50 begins?	He will FaceTime me like he does every Sunday, and we will talk about matchups.	"Bears fans, get ready for a Super Bowl 51 run."	"In February 2017 I will be in Houston! Mmmmm, this steak is delicious!"	"CBS offered me how much to come on the pregame show to talk about my two former teams? Dang!"	"Can't I go one day without someone asking me, 'What does the Fox say?' Uuuuggggghhh."
4	If you could star in any company's Super Bowl ad, which would it be and why?	Probably Chick-fil-A. I would mess up my lines on purpose so I could keep eating nuggets and drinking their lemonade.	The one where my co-star is a supermodel. I like supermodels.	Magic Leap. What the company is doing right now is mind-blowing—their commercial would leave everyone speechless.	Easy: NetJets. Free private plane flights.	Something with a musical number co-starring Betty White, that Darth Vader kid and Danny Trejo.
5	There's a Puppy Bowl and Kitten Bowl. What animals will play football next?	Kangaroos need to play football! They are the new "it" animal!	None. There isn't enough room for any more animal bowls.	The game is played with a pigskin, so pigs.	There has already been a "Snake," a "Moose," a "Sea Bass" and a "Goose." What else ya need?	Ahem. There's really only one way I can answer this question.

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winter sucks

Bowl so hard

WINTER SUCKS
GET COZY

Chicago experts share their secret party tips, recipes

By Heather Schroering and Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

There's one night a year when football and food collide harder than most regular-season weekends combined. Super Bowl Sunday doesn't care about your resolutions to drink less and diet. Excess is the name of the game, and we're happy to oblige. Whether you're hosting or packing for a potluck, it's important that your food doesn't fumble. We consulted top Chicago chefs, bartenders and experts for their best party advice. Here are their tips and tricks to Super Bowl success.

Meet the experts

And see who they predict to win.

• BRONCOS
• PANTHERS



BILL JACOBS
Owner, Piece Brewery and Pizzeria, and BroBagel



DOUG SOHN
Founder, Hot Doug's



AMANDA DOWNING
Executive chef and partner, Rockit Bar & Grill



CORY FARMER
Executive chef, Black Iron Tavern



BRIAN JUPITER
Chef, Frontier



MEG GALUS
Pastry chef, Boka



JONATHAN ZARAGOZA
Chef & partner, Birrieria Zaragoza



DIANE CORCORAN
Beverage director, Three Dots and a Dash



EDWARD KIM
Executive chef and owner, Mott St.



MANNY SOFIOS
Bartender, Studio Paris Nightclub



CHARLIE SCHOTT
Bar manager, Parson's Chicken & Fish

Party prep

Hosting doesn't have to be hard. Follow these tips and tricks for a worry-free party.

GO FOR FINGER FOODS

Sohn likes to watch the game, so he chooses snacks that can sit for a long time and don't require him to hover in the kitchen. He leans toward foods that don't need a knife and fork and are "a little more mobile and easy to handle without having to sit at a table." While finger foods cut down on the silverware, he recommends going for biodegradable plates.

COOK WHAT YOU CAN ON SATURDAY

Not only does it keep you out of the kitchen on Sunday, to Sohn's point, Downing said your snacks will be a lot more flavorful if given time to sit.

Food & booze

If you feed them, they will come. Our experts give tips on what to make, order and pick up before kickoff.

Guacamole

Avocado anything is already a winner, but “you can fold in something more fun,” like cooked lobster or crab, said Rockit Bar & Grill executive chef and partner Amanda Downing.

Beer cheese

Doctor up store-bought cheddar cheese spread at home with Downing's suggestion. Saute ½ cup diced yellow onions, ½ teaspoon of minced garlic and salt and pepper in oil until tender. Add 6 ounces of beer (Downing uses Goose Island Matilda), and cook until liquid reduces by half. Blend mixture with 1 cup of cream cheese cut into cubes, and add 16-28 ounces of cheese spread (Downing recommends Mercks) and salt and pepper to taste. Serve warm over fries, tots, tortilla chips or soft pretzels.



Cream cheese spread

Bill Jacobs, owner of Piece Brewery and Pizzeria and BroBagel, likes to keep it simple. He suggests his own **sriracha cream cheese and bagel chips** (\$3.49 and \$4.99, respectively at BroBagel), a great option for the takeout type.

Pigs in a blanket

Wrap cocktail wieners in crescent roll dough and bake. “People knock those, but they're definitely the first thing to go,” said Hot Doug's legend Doug Sohn. And don't forget the mustard.

DIY taco bar

For an easy, help-yourself main dish, Birrieria Zaragoza chef and partner Jonathan Zaragoza said he sets up a taco bar with all the fixings. “Prep what you want, heat the tortillas and make sure the protein is nice and hot. I like doing slow-cooker carnitas,” he said. Have fun with toppings and think fresh with guacamole, avocado hummus, jicama, cucumber and cabbage.



Pizza

Unsurprisingly, Super Bowl Sunday is one of the busiest takeout days at Piece, Jacobs said. But it's worth it to get your hands on the Wicker Park pizzeria's collaboration with Girl & the Goat's Stephanie Izard: **a sichuan sausage pie with red sauce, soy-chili oil, peppercorns, chives and cheddar, parmesan and mozzarella cheeses** (\$20.49-\$28.49, vegetarian option available).



Wings

Though they're a go-to party food, “what a lot of people don't do with wings is brine them,” said Black Iron Tavern executive chef Cory Farmer. A day before the party, Farmer said brining the meat with equal parts sugar, salt and water gives them a “juicy taste,” rather than drying them out. Marinate them in your favorite barbecue sauce or a good bloody mary mix for a kick.

Batch cocktail

Throw together a big-batch cocktail the night before your party and put it out as your guests start to arrive. It will give you a bit more time in the kitchen and allow your friends to mingle. “It's a great ice-breaker and won't make you feel stressed,” said Mott St. executive chef and owner Edward Kim.

Sliders

Tiny sandwiches are both snacky and substantial. Cook pulled pork or chicken in a crock pot with pineapple juice and sriracha and serve with dinner rolls, Downing said. If you want to get a little fancier, Farmer recommends Asian-inspired barbecue burgers topped with barbecue sauce, tangy Asian mayo, grilled pineapple and red cabbage and lime slaw served on Hawaiian bread.



Pulled pork sliders

Fresh garnishes

Instead of trying to whip up a 12-ingredient cocktail for the masses, stick to what you know and add flair with garnishes. Three Dots and a Dash beverage director Diane Corcoran suggests starting with a batch of vodka soda and setting up a garnish bar with fresh fruits (**citrus, berries, pineapple**) and herbs—anything you can find in season at the grocery store. “The garnishes add a nice touch and let your guests personalize the cocktails and make it fun for them,” she explained.



Beer

Chicago has its fair share of solid craft beers fit for a party, but if you're looking for a beer from the home state of your favorite team, try one of these. Beer guru and Studio Paris Nightclub bartender Manny Sofios recommends the **Nitro milk stout by Left Hand Brewing Company** outside of Denver or the sessionable Joe's Pils hoppy American pilsner by Avery Brewing Company. And for those looking for something a little more basic, shoot for Colorado-originating Coors Banquet because “it's cool without being too cool,” Sofios said.

While the Chicago market is a desert for North Carolina beers, some Binny's locations stock a few South Carolina breweries (they're called the Carolina Panthers after all). Check out beers by Westbrook Brewing and Windy Hill Orchard cider.

SET UP TRASHCANS

No one wants to get stuck on clean-up duty after the game ends. Chef Brian Jupiter from Frontier always sets up several garbage bags and trashcans around his place before hosting a party. “You'll be surprised how much people actually drop stuff in the trash if it's there,” he said. “You can have fun and not have to worry about cleaning up too much after.”

DON'T OVEREXTEND YOURSELF

That snackadium with salami bleachers you found on Pinterest looks amazing but won't leave you much time to relax before hosting. “The day is supposed to be fun. Do easy things that people like,” Boka pastry chef Meg Galus said. “You don't have to overextend yourself and choose things with a million ingredients.”

GO FOR BEER WITH LESS ALCOHOL

“If you commit to drinking bigger beers, [the night will] end quicker than you want it to,” Sofios said. Keep the ABV under 5.5 percent with something like a lager.

STOCK UP ON ICE

Ice-cold drinks and frosty beers are a must as your party heats up. Parson's bar manager Charlie Schott recommends grabbing a few bags of ice before guests arrive, and his pro tip will save you a few bucks: Popeyes' drive-through locations sell 10-pound bags of ice for \$1. You might as well pick up some tenders while you're there.



eat&drink



MINI-REVIEW
Packed:
Dumplings
Reimagined

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Proceed with caution

PACK A PUNCH

How does Hyde Park's new dumpling shop stack up?

By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE

The irony of expensive prix-fixe meals is that the plates are often so dainty and precious that sometimes people have to stop for fast food afterward just to feel full and satisfied. Packed: Dumplings Reimagined from partners Aaron DiMaria (RA Sushi) and chef Mike Sheerin (Blackbird, Cicchetti, currently chef at Embeya) isn't a prix-fixe experience; it's a casual quick-service dumpling shop in Hyde Park. Still, after a recent visit there, I ended my night chowing down on McDonald's Chicken McNuggets and a cherry Coke Slurpee from 7-Eleven.



Mac 'n' cheese



Pastrami

THE SCENE

Everything at Packed, including the student- and professor-studded crowd from neighboring University of Chicago, is basically non-GMO, eco-friendly and compostable. The walls are slicked with a shade of mint green, the kind of noncommittal color you might paint a nursery if you decided not to find out your child's gender before birth. Artistic touches include a handful of large photos of cows grazing, hay bales and flowers, something Monet might have done were he to try his hand at digital photography. Utensils from an eco-conscious South Asian company are made from compressed and steam-treated fallen palm fronds.

THE SERVICE

Though Packed is supposed to be quick service, I waited in line like cattle (or people clamoring for lunch at Chipotle back in its heyday) in a narrow hallway to place my order. I waited again for my order to dribble out dumpling by dumpling. Though I had a nifty lacquered log with a number mounted on it to alert the service staff where to deliver my meal, a food runner with a plate of noodles asked me if my name was Fred and if the noodles were mine. They were not.

THE FOOD

Chef Sheerin is mighty talented and known for bringing modern techniques to classic dishes, a style that earned him a Food & Wine magazine Best New Chef nod in 2010. Blackbird, which was already a standard bearer for Chicago culinary excellence, improved under his lead. Though short-lived, Cicchetti brought red-sauce cuisine to the 21st century, serving aged beef carpaccio showered with dehydrated cauliflower slices that ate like fine potato chips.

These bones are evident at Packed. The "American" cheese on the mac 'n' cheese (\$7) dish isn't Velveeta but a creamy, heartwarming mix of Hook's 4-year cheddar and grass-fed cream cheese. The meat in the pastrami dumpling (two for \$5, five for \$11.50) is house-cured. A dip served with hushpuppies (\$7) features gelled coconut milk infused with lime and rosemary. The butternut squash dumpling (two for \$4, five for \$9) plate is painted with a balsamic caramel so silky I wish Garrett Popcorn would drizzle it over a new Italian-Chicago mix. The dumpling wrappers are lithe and made by hand.

But a third of the dumplings I tried were raw at the seams. The hushpuppies were crunchy, golden brown and packed with grassy shishito pepper bits, but a finishing dash of salt was woefully missing. The mac 'n' cheese features toothy housemade noodles, but the cheese sauce was grainy, and dehydrated shiitakes tossed into the mix were desiccated and too crunchy. The whole thing was overdressed with thick jalapeno rounds where a smattering of tiny pepper bits would improve the overall balance and texture of the dish.

The pastrami dumpling burst with peppery spice and had the essence of a good deli sandwich. Pickled tomato sprinkled around the dumpling provided a zingy swoosh of acidity that cut through the richness of the meat. But the butternut squash dumpling, plated on pureed squash, reminded me of a Gerber baby food giveaway, an unreleased Bob Dylan album called "Mush on Mush." The puree included lady apples, which, had they been cubed in the mix, might have created a more pleasing textural contrast.

When I visited, Packed had been open just over a week, and Sheerin, who's still running the kitchen at Embeya at night, is only

available for quality control during morning prep. He's relying on a newly trained group of cooks who are preparing thousands of dumplings daily in a tiny kitchen. Flavor combinations are thoughtful, and proteins in the dumplings are well-executed. If the staff can iron out the kinks on seasoning and wrapper-steaming, Packed might turn out to be the most innovative and excellent dumpling house in the city.

THE DRINKS

The only drinks available when I visited were tap water, an excellent Sparrow nitrogen-infused iced coffee (\$4), which finished with fruity notes, and raspberry-kissed Nicaraguan tea (\$4). The Packed crew expected to offer a couple of juices from Harvest Juicery but ran into cost issues during opening week.

THE VALUE

I normally over-order when I dine out so I can try a deep selection of the menu. I thought I was being aggressive at Packed, but the order, which cost \$70.72, left four of us underfed, leading to my McNugget-Slurpee run.

BOTTOM LINE

Packed's dumpling wrappers are housemade and the flavor combinations are stellar, but there were some seasoning, cooking and general execution issues evident when I visited. Stop by if you live near Hyde Park; if not, wait a little longer while Sheerin and his team have a chance to make adjustments.

MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. REPORTERS VISIT RESTAURANTS UNANNOUNCED, AND MEALS ARE PAID FOR BY REDEYE.

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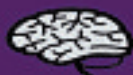
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movies



THE
CHOICE
PG-13

Teresa Palmer and Benjamin Walker in 'The Choice'

Hey, a Nicholas Sparks movie that's not the worst



FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais@redeye-chicago.com
» @mattpais

Yes, "The Choice" includes the following elements that would make it very easy to mock:

» An opening voiceover in which Travis (Benjamin Walker of "In the Heart of the Sea") declares, "Now, pay attention, 'cause I'm about to tell you the secret to life ... you

see, every path you take leads to another choice. ... Boy, do I got a choice I gotta make." No one should dispute that that's awful.

» During a discussion about belief systems, Gabby (Teresa Palmer of "Warm Bodies" and "Point Break," who has like seven movies coming out this year) actually says she believes in the moon and the stars. Really.

» Seemingly mandatory, manipulative cuteness involving puppies and, to a lesser extent, human kids.

But this sort of sentiment hinges on performances and the percentage of horrendous writing, and "The Choice," obviously based on a Nicholas Sparks book if you didn't already figure

that out, does OK in the latter category and quite well in the former. Set aside some of the details and this is a persuasive love story about living in the moment, containing quality flirtation and legit temptation. How many movies can say that anymore?

The basics, if you care: Travis is a good ol' country boy in Wilmington, N.C., skilled with the ladies and instantly hated by his new neighbor Gabby, who's a med student struggling to study with all that loud rock music next door. Don't ya know it, hate turns out to live on the same coin as love, and sparks fly between the two even though she's dating a doctor (Tom Welling of "Smallville") and he's got an on-again, off-again thing with his high school sweetheart (Alexandra Daddario, deserving more to do).

What do you think?

Email mpais@redeye-chicago.com when you see a movie and explain why you think he got it right or got it wrong. Once a month we'll publish some of the letters. Note: Commentary including profanity or any other offensive material will not be considered.

As a political statement (you'll see), "The Choice" gets tangled between faith and science. As drama, it relies too heavily, just like pretty much all Sparks stories (whose recent movies, such as "The Longest Ride," generally have been atrocious), on predictable tragedy to bring on the tears. But damn if Palmer and a particularly breakout turn from Walker don't sell the damn thing, kinda like a painting you buy in a shop on vacation. Maybe it doesn't seem quite as charming when you get home, but it reminds you of something warm.



★★★★☆
HAIL, CAESAR!
PG-13

Want to watch Channing Tatum tap dance, anyone?

FAST PAISED

Matt Pais

» mpais@redeye
chicago.com
» @mattpais

Too funny to dismiss and too mild to endorse, “Hail, Caesar!” would be a promising movie for many filmmakers. It’s an underwhelming one for the Coen brothers, who I suppose are due for something minor after spending the last decade in particular alternating between remarkable achievements (“No Country for Old Men,” “A Serious Man,” “Inside Llewyn Davis”) and smaller successes (“Burn After Reading,” “True Grit”). “Hail, Caesar” is the least they’ve done in a while, but it’s still fun. Ish.

Set in 1950s Hollywood so the writers/directors can delight in winking at old-fashioned titles like “Merrily We Dance” and “Lazy Ol’ Moon,” the film stars Josh Brolin as a fictionalized version of Eddie Mannix, a real producer who excelled in protecting the secrecy and interests of movie stars. (You can Google “Job posting Hollywood fixer,” but you won’t find one or get that job, sorry.) So when massively famous actor Baird Whitlock (George Clooney) vanishes from a set, it’s Eddie who deals with the ransom on top of his other duties, like softening the teeth of hungry twin reporters (both played by Tilda Swinton) and the studio’s PR problem repre-

sented by an unmarried female star (Scarlett Johansson) with a child. Ugh, what a scandal.

In many ways “Hail, Caesar!” feels like a diluted version of the Coens’ previously explored territory, be it kidnapping (“Raising Arizona,” “Fargo,” “The Big Lebowski”), moviemaking (“Barton Fink”), religious uncertainty (“A Serious Man”) or a self-important organization oblivious to its own follies (“Burn After Reading”). Several threads go nowhere amid a muted mystery that, after “Bridge of Spies,” “Trumbo” and “Pawn Sacrifice,” reiterates that communism is today’s hot topic at the movies. To watch “Hail, Caesar!” is to experience a balloon constantly deflating and inflating, depending on how much time has passed between laughs.

But those laughs. This comedy has a handful of killer scenes, striking gold out of something as simple as the way an out-of-his-league actor enters a room. It’s a silly movie, worthy of giggles if you’re so inclined to react that way to a character named Chunk Muligan or a director (Ralph Fiennes) complaining that his star is “game and gamey!” In one of several underwritten parts, Channing Tatum plays Burt Gurney (gotta love these names), and his tap dancing number, in a song I assume is called “We Ain’t Gonna See a Dame,” is hysterical. It’s a lot like “Magic Mike,” except not at all.

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Boring with or without all the zombie fighting

FAST PAISED

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How weird is this: "Pride and Prejudice and Zombies" opens the same day as "The Choice," starring Teresa Palmer (of the last major zombie-related romance,

"Warm Bodies") and Benjamin Walker (of the last mashup based on a Seth Grahame-Smith novel, "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter"). Coincidence? Impossible.

Also odd is how awkwardly "P+P+Z" combines Jane Austen's novel with an invasion of the undead. Tonally, it's like if Metallica had recorded its symphony-enhanced album "S&M" not by playing with the orchestra but by having the ensemble play alone for five minutes, then stop for two minutes of Metallica, then repeat. That's the degree to which writer-director Burr Steers ("17 Again") integrates generic brain-chomping monsters into the universally known storyline of Elizabeth Bennet (Lily James of "Cinderella,"

whose agent must really believe in corsets), Mr. Darcy (Sam Riley) and a host of romantic entanglements and misjudgments.

Well, something good does come out of the genre-blender. Now the fiery Elizabeth refuses to let a man stand between her and her blade, knowing that the right guy won't have a problem with the fact that she totally kicks ass. The message is that all the Bennet daughters are trained for battle, not the kitchen, which is a hell of a lot more feminist than, say, "Trainwreck," which wasn't set hundreds of years ago. James gives her resolve, so it's too bad the interplay with Riley never heats up.

When he confesses his affections—what, you didn't know Darcy does that?—it comes out of nowhere, not an explosion of feeling that no longer can be repressed. Meanwhile, Steers fails to capture the impending zombie mayhem in this walled-off, 19th-century London, just occasionally taking breaks from relationship-related exchanges to show someone's head getting blown off. (Here's the



Lily James in 'Pride and Prejudice and Zombies'

★★★★
**PRIDE AND
PREJUDICE
AND
ZOMBIES**
PG-13

part where you can say that normally it's your head exploding during a Jane Austen movie.)

The notion of enlivening classic material with modern flair isn't automatically forced. Many teen comedies of the late '90s/early '00s tried, and a few succeeded. But discussions of vanity and pride don't get juicier just because they take place during fight training,

and the explanation of what's happening here zombie-wise (plus weak comic relief from Matt Smith of "Doctor Who") barely registers. Count "P+P+Z," which co-stars Bella Heathcote and Jack Huston, merely as a reminder of the other movie those two made together, the sensational music drama "Not Fade Away," and see that.

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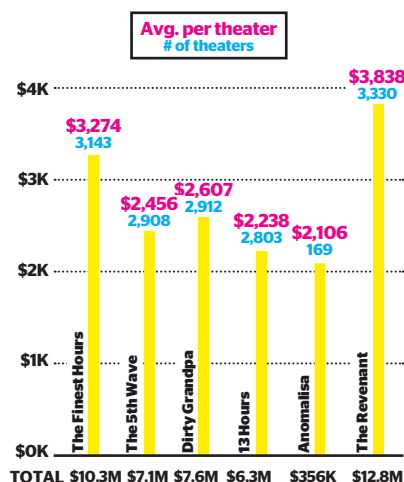
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movie business

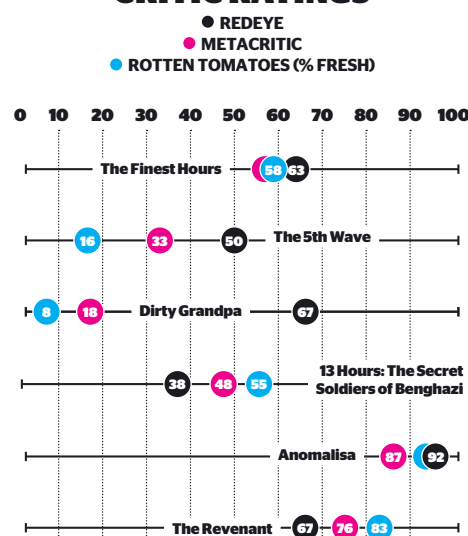
With a new batch of movies opening, you may be digging through your brain to remember what came out last week and the week before. It happens to me all the time. Here's a numerical look back (out of 100) at what we thought about some of the movies you may or may not have seen/liked/hated/forgotten about, and, sigh, if you want to know what someone else thought of them, an idea of how critical aggregators rate the movie. And how much money each brought in last weekend, which I guess sometimes sort of matters. —MATT PAIS, REDEYE

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ALL BOX OFFICE RESULTS FOR JAN. 29-31. SOURCE: BOXOFFICEMOJO.COM.

CRITIC RATINGS



Now on Netflix

By Matt Pais | REDEYE



'The Last Five Years'

You know how most musicals are loud and obvious, desperate to entertain while delivering an overblown dance number and singing about information we already know with an annoyingly catchy air of self-congratulation?

Clearly, I don't like musicals. But I loved "The Last Five Years." It's remarkably perceptive about love and commitment, cross-cutting between hope and devastation without an ounce of smugness. Many will compare the structure, with jumps around the doomed five-year relationship of Cathy (Anna Kendrick) and Jamie (Jeremy Jordan), to 2009's "(500) Days of Summer." But "The Last Five Years" is hardly "(1800) Days of Jamie," or anything like "Into the Woods." Plus, "Years" attends to the needs and perspectives of both characters with a deeper understanding than "Gone Girl."

It's also hilarious at times. "Why am I trying so hard?" Cathy, an aspiring actress forced to work at an Ohio theater camp each summer for lack of better options, sings to herself during a New York audition. "These are the

people who cast Russell Crowe in a musical. Jesus Christ." She's lacking motivation in the competitive theater world, and Jamie's terrific, motivating "The Schmuel Song" reveals how the person you love can cheer you up even when you think it's impossible. Later, of course, his "If I Didn't Believe In You" is reassurance masking a threat, signaling that it's up to Cathy to be better and happier or things will go from bad to worse.

That's a thread in this work's ball of genius—tracking two people whose needs meet at the right time but whose relationship is complicated by the unexpected, and learn, in figurative terms, that the whole "in sickness and health" thing is a lot easier in health. Like it or not, personal relationships can be subject to professional woes, and Cathy and Jamie—amazingly handled by Kendrick and Jordan—experience the certain, the unpredictable and the never-imagined. And through excellent songs that bring the story and feelings to life without any extra words, writer-director Richard LaGravenese crafts a wise, intimate portrait worthy of laughter and tears. Bravo.

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HBO goes animated with new series ‘Animals’

Tribune News Services

HBO debuts “Animals,” a new animated series, Friday night. The show is about a New York menagerie of anthropomorphic animals one typically associates with the grit of urban life—rats, pigeons, dogs, cats and (yes) even bedbugs.

Co-creator and producer Mike Luciano, 28, and his co-producer, Phil Matarese, handle the voices, along with a few “guest voices,” including Aziz Ansari, Wanda Sykes, Kumail Nanjiani and Molly Shannon.

After a successful premiere at Sundance in 2015, indie-production stars Mark and Jay Duplass helped Luciano and Matarese find their way through the Hollywood jungle. The happy result: a two-season deal with HBO for 20 episodes.

This is an edited version of a recent interview with Luciano.

How did you get started in this racket?

All through high school I filmed for school projects any chance I got—and just loved

making comedy films, and taught myself how to edit and had a group of friends who became my little gang of repertory players.

How’d you and Phil Matarese come up with this idea?

It was a month after we knew each other [working in a New York ad agency], and we shared this office with a huge panoramic window. One day during break, we saw these two pigeons sitting across from us, and we started riffing on what they might be talking about. Phil [later] made a little animation of it, and he sent me a screenshot: It just blew my mind. It was so rich and it suddenly had a whole world to it, and we pretty quickly realized this is a show.

Pretty impressive getting the Duplasses behind this. The short version of that story?

Mark said he and his brother [Jay] will help you get funding [and] to make all 10 episodes right now. He said, “I can’t promise you it’ll wind up anywhere. [But] I can promise you’ll



have full creative control.” We moved out here [Los Angeles] in February of 2014.

The show is very amusing but also twisted. What’s the overall idea?

It’s just like going into the idiosyncratic

brains of what it’s like with various animals that live in the most man-made environment in the world. What is it like to live here as a pigeon or rat and spend your whole life avoiding trains? Twisted? Yeah, that part of the thing we don’t question too much.

‘Animals’
Series premiere
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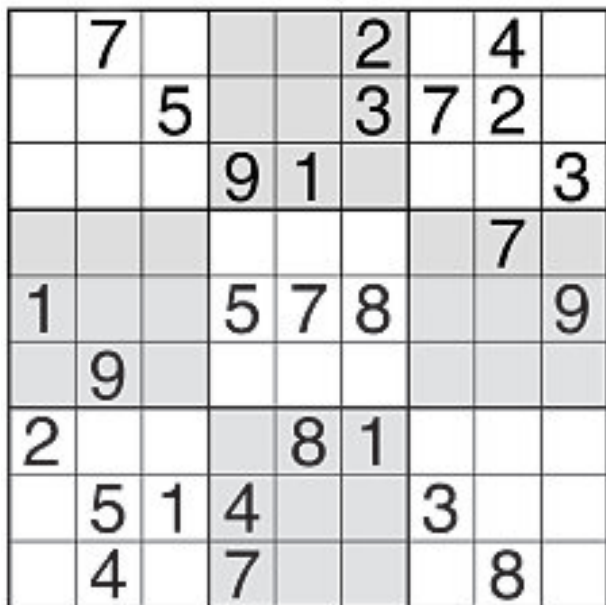
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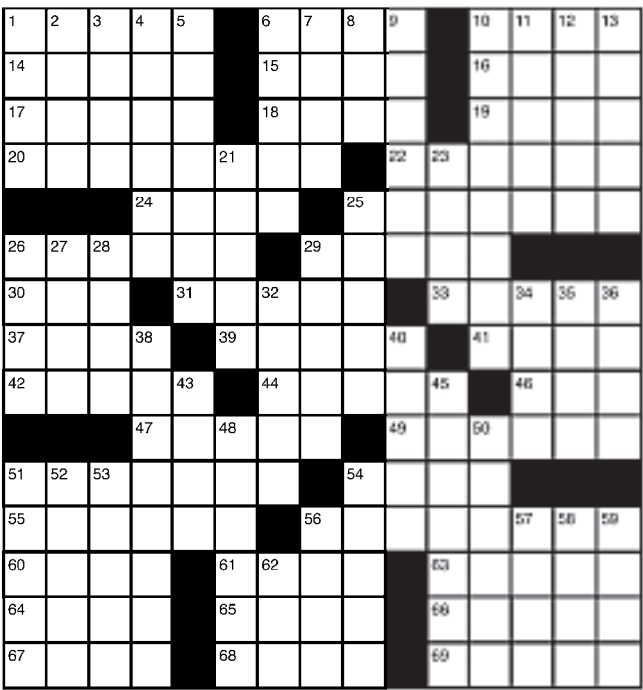


ACROSS

- 1 Actor in "Gone with the Wind"
6 Diminishes
10 Is required to
14 Chef's clothing protector
15 Tidy
16 Part of a foot
17 Minimum
18 Green gem
19 Sign of a past surgery
20 Outer part
22 Give confidence to
24 on: have trust in
25 Child taken in by a new family
26 Small, shapely tree in a pot
29 Fashion
30 "Maria"
31 Fortune-teller's deck of cards
33 Thrill
37 Tavern order
39 Day or Roberts
41 Big cat
42 Stopped
44 Evening coffee, perhaps
46 British toilet
47 Baffling question
49 Small, flattened liquor containers
51 Talk show host _ Hall
54 Cruel
55 Turn
56 Home loan
60 Song for two
61 Prison knife
63 February 5
64 Villain
65 Scramble piece
66 Wipe away
67 Tear apart
68 Imitated
69 Freeway entrances

DOWN

- 1 Powerful wind
2 High point
3 Unruly child
4 Booby prize recipients
5 Beg
6 _ oneself; have a ball
7 Smokey or Yogi
8 Evil
9 Constant; unchanging
10 Goof up in a school bee
11 Still whole
12 Frighten
13 Small number
21 Epic by Homer
23 Shoe bottom
25 Garret
26 Baseball's Ruth



- 27 Heating chamber
28 In _ of: lacking
29 More miffed
32 Cowboy's competition
34 Feels sick
35 after: resembled
36 Right-fielder _ Slaughter
38 Said again
40 Not as risky
43 First word in a warning
45 Butter up
48 Spanish nap
50 Soft yarn
51 Passion
52 Cheek coloring
53 No-nonsense
54 Relocated
56 5,280 feet
57 Actor Sandler
58 Inhale suddenly
59 Watches
62 In style



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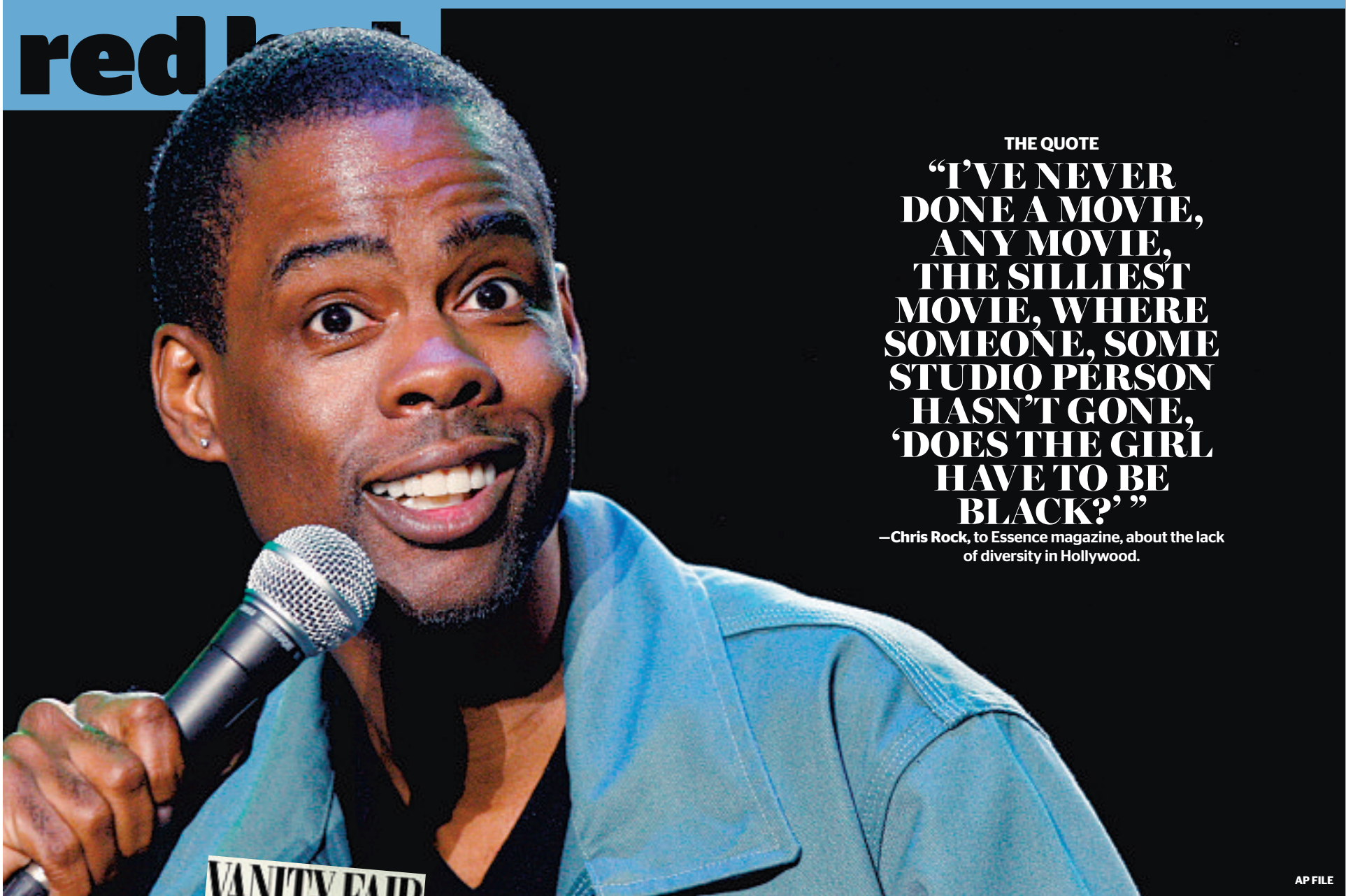
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‘DOES THE GIRL
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BLACK?’ ”

—Chris Rock, to *Essence* magazine, about the lack of diversity in Hollywood.

AP FILE

**Caitlyn Jenner’s
Vanity Fair issue
named cover of
the year**

The American Society of Magazine Editors named **Caitlyn Jenner’s June 2015 *Vanity Fair* cover** as its cover of the year, according to **eonline.com**. “Any time you have to choose between an already legendary Annie Leibovitz shoot on the cover of *Vanity Fair*, a Mark Seliger comedy special on *GQ* and one of the year’s most talked-about news covers, ‘*Cosby: The Women*’ on *New York*—plus Serena Williams on both *Sports Illustrated* and *New York*—that’s a good time to be a magazine editor and an even better time to be a magazine reader,” ASME chief executive Sid Holt said. Hey, we’re all blessed to be in this business.



Expanding her reach

Taylor Swift is going mobile. The “Blank Space” singer is teaming up with Glu Mobile to create an app for smartphones and tablets, according to **variety.com**. “Glu is equally committed to designing never-before-seen gameplay elements that utilize Taylor’s unique creativity. Accordingly, we will spend the required development time to ensure this innovation is achieved,” said Niccolo de Masi, Glu’s CEO. The game is expected to be released late 2016.



GETTY IMAGES FILE

Welcome to ‘Top Gear’ ...

... **Matt LeBlanc**! The “*Friends*” actor was tapped to be the co-host of the U.K. show alongside British TV and radio personality Chris Evans, according to **thr.com**. “As a car nut and a massive fan of ‘*Top Gear*,’ I’m honored and excited to be a part of this iconic show’s new chapter,” LeBlanc said, according to THR.



AP FILE



GETTY IMAGES FILE

What’s good, Miley?!

Miley Cyrus tweeted out Wednesday that she will be a key adviser for Season 10 of “*The Voice*,” according to **ew.com**. Cyrus will assist the judges in preparing their teams for competition, according to EW. Well, that’s cool. Please stop licking things, though.